

Fort Smith Regional Water Supply Project Update

Summer 2003

Bids Open for Contract 2

Highlights:

Bids for Contract 2 opened on May 30, 2003

Bid prices were up to \$31.5 million below engineer's opinion of cost

Bidders' qualifications were evaluated prior to opening the bids

Contract 2 is for building the dam embankment and the principal and auxiliary spillways

Work on relocating God's Ranch Road 75 percent complete

Excavation of outlet tunnel nearly complete

The archaeological work continues despite nature's interventions

Bids were opened for Contract 2 (Dam Embankment and Spillways) of the Lake Fort Smith Dam and Reservoir Enlargement Project on May 30, 2003. This ended the bidding process that started on April 2, when bid documents were provided to prospective bidders.

Granite Construction Company provided a bid price of \$52,929,760, followed by Gilbert Central Corporation at \$59,591,300 and Barnard Construction Company, Inc. at \$86,950,000. The engineer's opinion of cost was \$84,514,830. City officials are pleased that the two lowest bids were considerably below what was expected. Granite Construction Company is part of the joint venture that was awarded Contract 1 for the project. The Notice to Proceed for Contract 2 is anticipated to be issued in July.

Bidder Qualifying

Preceding the bid opening, all three bidders were required to submit Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) for the project. The SOQs were submitted on May 14, and outlined each bidder's:

- specialized experience and past record of performance
- project organization and team
- technical competence and project approach
- construction details
- financial information

All SOQs were reviewed by an evaluation committee that included staff members from the

City of Fort Smith, Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc. (engineer of record for the project), Shannon & Wilson, Inc. (geotechnical sub-consultant), and Xcorps, LLC (peer reviewer). The SOQ review meeting was held on May 22, and each bidder was rated on a 100-point scale. The total score was the summation of individual scores in each of the five categories listed above. Gilbert Central received 83 points, followed by Granite with 80 points and Barnard with 75 points. The city will consider the SOQ points in combination with the bid price to determine who is awarded the contract.

Contract 2 Components

The major components of Contract 2 include the dam embankment, principal spillway, and auxiliary spillway. The dam embankment will raise the height of the existing Lake Fort Smith Dam from 845 to 946 feet above sea level. This additional height will combine the existing Lake Fort Smith and Lake Shepherd Springs into the new and larger Lake Fort Smith. The principal spillway is a reinforced concrete structure that will carry lake discharges up to the 100-year flood. Discharges in excess of the 100-year flood will be carried by the auxiliary spillway. The auxiliary spillway will consist of a large, unlined excavation between the west end on the dam and Highway 71. Constructing this spillway will require the removal of approximately 5 million cubic yards of rock from the hillside.

Construction Update

Despite the occasional discovery of unforeseen geologic conditions, work on Contract 1 for the Lake Fort Smith Project is on schedule. To make way for the new intake tower, God's Ranch Road is being relocated. Although local slope stability issues caused some redesign, work on the road relocation is approximately 75 percent complete.



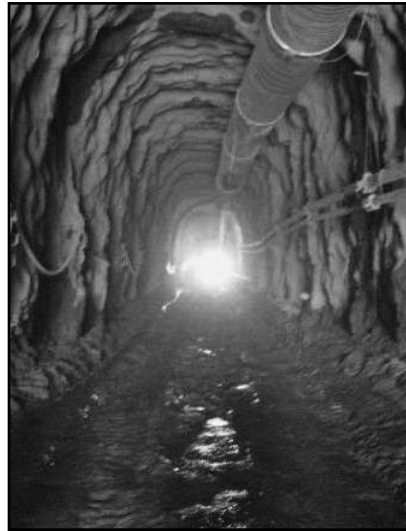
Construction of God's Ranch Road relocation.

At the location of the intake tower, over 120 feet of excavation, including stabilizing rock faces, has been completed. The new intake tower will have a 56-by-66-foot base and will stand 225 feet high.



Excavation for the new intake tower.

A 1,200-foot-long outlet tunnel will originate at the base of the intake tower and run through the east abutment of the dam. This tunnel will contain the pipes that will deliver water from the lake to the water treatment plant and minimum flow releases to Frog Bayou. Over 1,100 feet of tunnel excavation work has been completed. Construction of a 255,000-cubic-yard rock buttress along the upstream side of the existing dam is approximately 25 percent complete. The buttress is a layer of rock on the dam that will pre-



The outlet tunnel under construction.

vent sloughing as the reservoir is drawn down to allow closure of the existing spillway, which is required before construction of the new dam embankment can begin.



Buttress on upstream side of the Lake Fort Smith Dam.

Preparation for the new dam embankment, including foundation grouting and stockpiling of 790,000 cubic yards of clay for the core of the dam, is ongoing.



Clay stockpile area.

Archaeologists Contend With Nature

Scientists whose job takes them outdoors are fond of saying that a bad day in the field is better than a good day in the office.

At Lake Fort Smith, however, nature has been challenging that contention as the archaeologists begin this summer's field session. The newest additions to the list of nature's assailants are a swarm of bees, a lonely rattlesnake looking for company, and severe weather in the



form of thunderstorms, lightning, heavy rains, hail, and a nearby tornado. To

date, the archaeologists have dealt with ticks, mosquitoes, poison ivy, copperheads, and cottonmouths in the field. The cabins, where the archaeologists live during their extended stays, have provided wasps, mice, snakes, scorpions, and starlings in the roof.



Despite nature's onslaughts, the archaeologists would still rather be in the field than behind a desk, and the digging continues. Of the seven sites identified for mitigation by data recovery, field excavations have been completed on four. Excavation of the remaining three sites will be completed this year. Perhaps the most significant finding to date has been evidence of a Native American village with constructed shelters dating back 5,000 to 7,000 years. This site is one of the oldest of its type found in northwestern Arkansas.



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